below the road surface resulting in cable breakdown frequently; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to improve the situation and if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) No, Sir. The cables are laid as per standards generally. In fact important cables are laid 5 ft. below road surface to avoid damages. However, in certain cases due to constructional difficulties cables are laid at shallow depth with sufficient precautions.

Breakdowns do sometimes occur due to damage to cables by digging operations by other public utilities despite these precautions.

(b) It is proposed to construct underground ducts to protect the cables from external damages on long-term basis for primary and junction cables. Jelly filled cables are being used in distribution network to prevent breakdowns due to ingress of water.

Use of telephone cables

2656. SHRIMATI ILA BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that jelly filled and Stalpath telephone cables of 81 lbs| 61 lbs are being used instead of 40 lbs which are of high grade and international standard:

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the system is proposed to be changed; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department is using jellyfilled cables of 6 1/2 lbs and 10 lbs gauge. This is as per international standards. The stalpath cables were imported and used as one time requirement in the Department. 40 lbs cables are rarely used and these are for special requirements only.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to change the system of using jellyfilled cables in the cables network as this is as per international standards and practices.

Task for public sector enterprises

2657. SHRI NEPALDEV BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any year-wise task was formulated for the public sector enterprises under the control of the Ministry of Industry;

(b) if so, the details of the tasks assigned and their achievements since the year of formulation uptodate; and

(c) the reasons in the cases of shortfall in achieving the targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) The year-wise tasks for the public sector enterprises are formulated by the public sector enterprises in consultation with the Ministry. These tasks are also indicated in terms of financial and production targets at the beginning of each year and the performance of the public enterprises is thereafter being reviewed periodicaly in terms of the assigned targets.

The performance details of each public sector enterprise are analysed and furnished in the Public Enterprises Survey brought out every year. This is also tabled in Parliament annually.

(c) There are various reasons which contribute to the shortfall in achieving targets. The following are some of the reasons for shortfall in achieving targets:

(i) Power shortage,

(ii) Recessionary conditions in some industries,